

Penn State Sports—

ON THE LINE

By ROY WILLIAMS
Sports Editor



Today Navy meets the best offense it has met thus far this season—a season in which it has stacked up a formidable defense and a 3-0 slate.

Lenny Moore, of course, the Lions' top target for All-America conversation, will be the vital cog in the four-man backfield machine. Moore will be the best back the Middies have faced this year, and probably the best they'll face during the remainder of the regular season.

HE'S FAST, TRICKY, a competitor, and can take a beating—a sound physical beating such as Army administered with its gang-tackling—and still be a spark for Coach Rip Engle.

Of course Moore won't, and can't handle Navy by himself, and no one expects it. From here we go to quarterback Bobby Hoffman, a 168-pounder who has been conspicuous in each game; fullback Buck Straub, and left half Billy Kane who will be looking for a repeat performance of his season's best work in the Boston University opener.

And the line of course. No one will go anywhere without them working—everybody working. And from here we go even further. SPIRIT—INVALUABLE:

Spirit—something that is practically unexplainable—can't be written on paper. Plays, defenses, etc., can be written, taught, and learned. Spirit can't be. Spirit grows with familiarity and desire, whether it be on a football field, in fraternity, or in a home.

For the freshmen coming straight out of high school, college football spirit—we'll grant you that many college teams play strictly "blood" football—is entirely new for them.

Rarely do sophomores acquire it so early. Juniors are on their way, but in the seniors—the three and four-year men—is where every coach looks for his spirit. Spirit comes from leaders. Combine the two and a team—although outclassed in ability—can win ball games. From here we leave it to Engle and his Lions.

Two things, it seems, usually go hand in hand in State College—rain and Homecoming weekend. But we should have known the drizzles were coming—it was sunny, bright, and warm last weekend; no special events were scheduled.

Rain and football teams, however, can brew odd tales on the gridiron. And with Navy and Penn State meeting today anything might pop.

NOTHING NEW

But such conditions aren't new for the Lions. They haven't set a foot on a dry field yet. Against Boston U. in the home opener the rain ceased at game time but left a treacherous field; against Army no rain fell during the game, but many players did under uncertain footing—the result of pre-game rain. Things got progressively worse. At Virginia the Lions met the Cavaliers under grey skies, through a steady drizzle, and on a muddy field.

By now the Lions should be professional mudders. What about Navy? Well, against Pitt on anything but a dry field, George Welsh, Navy's snappy leader at quarterback, completed eight of 17 passes. Last Tuesday it was clear and sunny. That's when we asked Frank Patrick what Navy could do on a wet field. Patrick, who scouted Navy against Pitt Saturday, said: "They're good then too."

Thinclads Train After Two Losses

By RON GATEHOUSE

Toying with a two-week lay-over before meeting Michigan State next Saturday at East Lansing, the Lion cross-country team has been steadfastly going through the paces (weather permitting) on its University golf course practice track.

Chick Werner's Centennial harriers, still looking for that first win, have dropped two contests so far. Last Saturday Cornell came to University Park to down the Lions, 20-37, and in the season opener the Nittanians traveled to Navy and were snubbed by the strong Middies, 22-39.

Now Own 0-2 Record

The present thinclads, obviously sub par to Penn State's perennial cross-country powers, are nevertheless stronger than their 0-2 record indicates.

Their two opponents to date are among the cream of the East, and the remainder of the schedule is without a weak spot.

After meeting the Spartans, the Lions face Pitt at home and then travel to New York City to meet Manhattan. Then come the IC-4A's at New York and the 1955 NCAA's, this year to be held at East Lansing.

Werner took a skeleton traveling squad of seven runners to Annapolis in the season opener, but entered nine men in the Cornell meet.

Moorhead Sets Pace

Captain Doug Moorhead has been spearheading the Lions so far—he was second against Navy and placed third in the Cornell meet.

Don Woodrow has been fourth and fifth respectively, with Paul Roberts, Bruce Austin, Ron Lewis, Al Jones, Norm Shoup, Wendel Yingling, and Bob Kopf rounding out the group of '55 runners to see action so far.

The freshman harriers, proclaimed by frosh coach Norm Gordon to be one of the University's best first-year squads, own a 15-46 shutout win over Cornell's yearlings in their only contest to date. The Lion frosh face Navy next Saturday before traveling to the IC-4A's.

Linemen, Coach ...



ALL-AMERICA END Ronnie Beagle, his coach, Eddie Erdeltz, and teammate John Hopkins (l. to r.) look as if they're casting a threatening glance in Penn State's direction as they brew victory plans. Navy comes to Beaver Field before an expected overflow Homecoming crowd of 33,000 today to meet the Lions. The Middies have a 3-0 record. The Lions, 2-1. The loss was suffered at the hands of Army two weeks ago, 35-6.

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